
**Select Committee on
Environmental Health**

HB 2318

Brief Description: Concerning inequities in the location of certain facilities in low-income or minority neighborhoods.

Sponsors: Representatives Hasegawa, Hudgins, Santos, Ormsby and Moeller.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires that no more than a total of twenty-five listed facilities or conditions may be located or exist within a five-mile radius area.

Hearing Date: 2/27/07

Staff: Amy McCormick (786-7290).

Background:

Minority and economically disadvantaged populations are known to have poorer health status than the overall population and have higher rates of a variety of diseases, including cancers and asthma. Many complex factors interact to produce health disparities among minority and low-income populations. These factors include behavioral choices, nutrition, access to medical care, and genetic predisposition. Environmental and occupational exposures also contribute to poorer health status.

Several state agencies, including the Department of Health, the Department of Ecology, and the Department of Transportation, have issued reports, guidelines, or recommendations for addressing environmental health and justice issues.

Summary of Bill:

The Legislature finds that certain sites or facilities may negatively impact human health. Minority and economically disadvantaged populations are known to have poorer health status than the

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overall population. Reducing the potential for exposure to environmental health hazards is important to protect human health, safety, and the environment.

No more than an aggregate total of twenty-five of a list of thirty-one facilities or conditions may exist or be located within an area with a five-mile radius. Examples of the facilities or conditions include airports, fuel farms, EPA superfund sites, oil pipelines, and sex offender facilities. If a five-mile area already has existing facilities or conditions that total more than twenty-five, no additional facilities or conditions may be added to that area.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Preliminary fiscal note available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.